

FINNY FACTS

Archived version

MAY 2007

San Diego



Fly Fishers

Cleaner Water. Brighter Streams. Better Fishing.

Volume 12, No. 5

May Meeting

British Columbia - PhD Steelhead

Our speakers for this month's meeting bring familiar faces to Southern California. Peter Koga and Dan Iwata are past Club Presidents of the Orange County Fly Fishers who have traveled together in the Northwest and British Columbia in pursuit of their passion for Steelhead.

Peter started to fly fish for steelhead in 1983 and was first introduced to using a spey rod for steelhead by Trey Combs and Jim Vincent in the early 90's. Peter was amongst the first Club Members to be certified as a casting instructor by the Federation of Fly

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MEETING NOTICE

Monday, May 7, 2007
7:30 PM

Sequoia Elementary School
4690 Limerick Avenue
(See map on back page)

REMINDER

Volunteer hosts for this meeting
(report at 6:15 PM)

**Bob Mosher, Lea Rudee,
and Frank Kawasaki**

Thank You, Mona Morebello



This story is written as a tribute to Paul Britting and the great day he shared with some 18 members of the San Diego Fly Fishers while kicking around Miramar Lake, Saturday, March 24, 2007. This seemed to be a day that Paul could not do wrong and the fish gods looked down kindly on him and those around him. Half the fun of the long fishing day was watching Paul light up with laughter when he hooked up with those large Nebraska trout. He took special joy in catching the fish, one after another on his favorite – Paul's Special Woolly Bugger. While we were still dragging the small dull Olive Buggers, Paul switched over to the bright and shiny Paul's Special. Maybe the trout were tired of looking at all those biting olive flies and took

Paul's offering over and over again.

We thought he had a great day when he had 25 beautiful green backed, pink sided, silver bellied rainbows at 2:00 PM. All of his trout were over 15 inches and most 17 to 18. A few of his favorite "Thumper" trout were 20 and 21 inches. We call them "Thumpers" when you feel the shoulders and the head shake in a strong solid throb and it is not the fast little dance of a smaller trout. The head shake lets you prepare for a strong run with line peeling off the reel and a spray of mist. Paul loves the sound of the reel drag even more than I do. We usually have our walkie-talkie radios around our neck and Paul loves to take the

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: MAY 2007

I am very sorry for the mix up that caused us to cancel our April 2 meeting. I am particularly sorry to have missed Mike Rivkin's presentation. Hopefully we can bring him back. I should have double checked with the school, since the same thing nearly happened two years ago, also during Spring Break. I am asking for a volunteer to coordinate with the school and remind them of our meeting dates before their breaks. It would be best to have someone who works with or has ties to the San Diego School District and is aware of their schedule. I just was totally unaware of the schools schedule and let Spring Break sneak up on us. If you would be willing to help in this simple way, please contact me at the May meeting.

On the bright side, **Lucky Ketchum**



GARY STRAWN

used our email chain to encourage many of us to get our float tubes and pontoon boats out on Miramar Lake, to challenge those big rainbow trout brought in from Nebraska. Just check his article in this newsletter...IT WAS AWESOME! For those of you that missed out, I encourage you to contact **Kim Jones** at Kim

has volunteered to act as our email clearing house. She forwards emails of interest to our local fly fishing community to those of us who have let her know we are interested. She separates them by topics of interest: trout, warm water or salt water. I am signed up for all three. I would like to thank Kim again for her hard work and encourage anyone interested to sign up. If you are like me, a short email from someone who just had a great day on the local waters helps to encourage me to go fishing.

Sunday April 22 was Day at the Docks at Fisherman's Landing, Point Loma. I want to thank **Jim Castelluzzo, Shelley Wagner, Louie Zimm** and **Paul Woolery** for organizing a Club booth. Thanks are also due to **Jon Hee, Al Venton, Jim Reeg** and **Bob Stock** for their help in getting our club insurance policy updated and renewed. It is "behind the scenes" work like this that helps keep the Club operating efficiently.

Don't forget: the Annual Raffle is coming Monday, June 4. **Jim Tenuto, Maria Goldman** and **Don Davis** are organizing it this year and are busy collecting up some great items. If you have something you would like to donate, bring it to a meeting and get it to Maria. Also, if you have a personal contact with a fishing lodge, guide service or equipment manufacture and you would be willing to help solicit donations, contact Jim Tenuto.

"Keep smiling and go fishing!"

Gary



British Columbia-PhD Steelhead

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Fishers and has been using spey rods for steelhead exclusively for the past 9 years. His talent as fly tyer is known throughout the State where he is often invited to be a featured tyer at Fly Fishing Shows.

Dan, a fly fishing junkie since 1989, joined Peter in 1995 on a Steelhead Journey to the Klamath, Rogue, Deschutes, Grand Ronde, Snake and Clearwater Rivers and has been

addicted to the Steelhead challenge ever since. A certified casting instructor and an avid spey rod enthusiast, Dan was recognized by the Southwest Council as "Educator of the Year" and was awarded a lifetime membership by the Federation of Fly Fishers when he received the "Lew Jewett" Award for his contributions to the Trout in the Classroom Program.

Through the digital technology of photography and video, Peter and Dan will present a visual program that will be quite

different from what we have seen in the past.

Their presentation will focus on the variety of rivers along the Skeena River Watershed and discuss the lodges, equipment, knots, flies and techniques used to catch this challenging game fish, known as the fish of a thousand casts.

Come and enjoy their personal and sometimes comical steelhead experiences.



FLY OF THE MONTH

Norb's Peacock Bodied, Olive Bugger with Red Ribs

Photo and recipe by Norb Spitzer, notes by Lucky Ketcham, April 4, 2007

- Hook:** Tiemco 5263, 3X long streamer hook, Size #10
- Underbody:** Before applying thread, wind 6-8 turns of .020 lead just behind the head of the hook
- Thread:** Black 6/0
- Tail:** Olive Marabou topped by 6-8 strands of chartreuse Krystal flash. Don't try to spread it out, let it just ride on top and blend into the marabou.
- Body:** Peacock 3 or 4 strands. (Variation - green chenille with copper rib)
- Hackle:** Grizzly dyed olive, or olive
- Rib:** Medium red wire counter-wound through the hackle.
Use relatively close turns, then carry the wire through the hackle and wind around the head, covering it completely. Ultra Wire by Wapsi is coated copper wire in several sizes and colors.
- Head:** Red wire wrapped over thread.



Simple size-10 Olive Woolly Buggers, dark olive and light olive, have been go to flies on Miramar Reservoir for the past two weeks. This variation shared by Norb Spitzer has been particularly attractive to the large Nebraska Rainbows. Norb has been fishing it as a single or in tandem with a green attractor, using a Teeny T200 sinking line, 1X, 3X or 4X -Fluorocarbon tippet. In the early morning and evening when fish were feeding on the surface he used the clear Camo intermediate sink line. If he did not catch 24 fish per day something was wrong. He also used a small black Seal Bugger, a black Pistol Pete and lately a Paul's Special. An Orange Crystal bugger fished in a slow or dead drift was a good choice for some of our members. It has also been a great fly for Norb on the Gunnison River.

Instructions: Pinch the barb and mount a 3X long streamer hook in the vise. Wrap 6 to 8 turns of .020 lead just behind the eye of the hook. Attach the 6/0 black thread behind the lead wraps. **Lead Technique** - Make a small bump of thread at the rear of the lead and then loosely spiral the thread to the front. Make another thread dam to keep the

thread from spreading the lead coils. Now you can wrap a thread layer over the lead coils to make a thread cocoon. Continue making an even thread base to the point above the barb. **Tip** - Always coat lead with head cement to prevent oxidation and white powder in your fly box. Lead oxide is a poison and it will discolor some of your flies. Select a small clump of dark olive marabou and size it to be one hook shank length. Attach at the rear of the hook with two soft pinch wraps. Adjust the length if necessary and then wrap with tight turns. Keep the marabou quills on top of the hook shank. **Tip:** To make a body without bumps do not trim the marabou at the tail, run the quills all the way to the start of the head. Trim it off two or three eye widths back from the eye. **Tip:** You have to plan for a clean space for the head - do not crowd the eye. Bring the thread to the bend. Select three or four strands of Chartreuse green Krystal-flash the length of the hook and tail. Place the center of the flash at the bend of the hook and secure with three tight turns. Keep on top of the tail, not to each side. Fold the forward ends of the flash back and wrap thread over the bend. It is best to use this folded material lock technique on slip-

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Fly of the Month

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pery materials like flash. Attach three inches of red Wapsi Ultra Wire at the bend and pull to the rear. Attach an olive or olive dyed grizzly saddle hackle by the stem, shiny side forward, (wet fly style) and pull to the rear. Attach three or four peacock herl by the tips and marry to the thread. **Tip:** Wrap one turn around the rear of the wire and the hackle. It will keep the wire or hackle from slipping off the back of a fat bodied fly. Wrap the peacock rope forward in touching turns stopping at the rear of the clear head space. Secure with three tight turns and trim excess. Palmer the

hackle forward with 5 or 6 turns. Secure and trim. The red wire makes this fly special. Counter wrap it in the opposite direction of the hackle wraps. Norb adds weight and color to this fly with several wraps of thread at the bend and then closer than normal wraps crossing over the hackle stem for security. Continue wrapping the wire up onto the thread head. It produces the effect of a red bead and gives more weight. Secure behind the eye, trim excess wire and whip finish just behind the eye. Apply two or three coats of thin head cement and you are done.



Annual Raffle Set for June 4th



Our Annual Raffle and Silent Auction is only a few weeks away, **Monday, June 4th**. We will have our usual treasure trove of fly rods, reels, vises, fly tying material, books, art and trips. For those who would like to donate new or barely used equipment, please contact **Jim Tenuto**, in the evenings. Also, for those so inclined, a gift certificate from Stroud's Tackle always makes a nice donation.

As always, we will be donating our proceeds to worthy, local fly-fishing groups and associations. Our gifts in the past have included **California Trout, Chula Vista Nature Center, Otay Lakes Children's programs, and Abraxas Fishing Program.**

The raffle is a great time, so even if you are not a regular meeting participant come down, see old friends, cart away your prizes! And it's an opportunity to watch the Master of Ceremonies, **Bill Stroud**, wield a microphone, tell some jokes, and move things along in a proper military fashion!

Watch the June *Finny Facts* for a list of prizes.

Tickets will be mailed to all club members on Friday, April 20th. They will be on sale at the May meeting as well, and you can pick up extra tickets at Stroud's.

Jim Tenuto



FISHIN' WITH

DAD

“Dad, I am 24 now. Don't you think it is time you showed me how to do this instead of doing it for me?” “Okay,” he quipped. “You take about 3 feet of 10 lb and tie on a couple feet of 8 lb and then a couple feet of 6 lb monofilament. If the leader is longer than that, you won't be able to control the fly or if you use lighter than 6 lb, you won't get the fly out of the trees.”

I lost Dad March 7th but his expertise in flyfishing skills was almost legendary as he was taught by one of the most skilled mountain dwellers in Jamestown, CO during the 30s, 40s, and 50s. Here are some of his resounding and successful advices that I rely on today. Read these and go fishing with my Dad.

The fishing conditions we fished were unique. Our Colorado creeks in Boulder County were steep and very fast and weren't wadable. You generally couldn't retrieve a snagged fly on the other side of the creek or even in the middle. The pools usually weren't more than 2 feet across and the runs weren't longer than 3 to 4 feet in mid season. There were a few runs longer in the late season water levels, which allowed more dry fly possibilities. These creeks are to this day the most rugged terrain I have fished. Sections of Deep Creek come almost close.

Accuracy was imperative and be ready for a quick yank if your leader slowed. We seldom fished with more than 10 feet of line including the leader and split shot guaranteed a lost fly.



by Gretchen Yearous

We fished our dry flies wet under the surface from one inch to a foot. Four or 5 fly patterns caught all the fish we wanted since the limits were 10 fish then. We were meat fishing in the 60's and 70's. The creeks produced lots of wild trout and weren't pressured; and in fact the South St. Vrain (yes, the very St. Vrain mentioned in John Gerach's books) was only accessible in some stream stretches by either horse or four wheel drive.

We were on upper Jim Creek off the Highway 72 around 9,000 feet when he taught me to put a fly in the middle of the large circle of foam. “Don't use that white miller. Cut that off and put on a Rio Grande King because it has some black on it and the fish can see it better under the foam. If you don't get a take under the foam then position it to run parallel to the foam in the current. That should work”.

We were on the Ceran St. Vrain when he taught me about the benefits of fishing back eddies in the slower water and to try dry flies first on them and then switch to a dry fly tied wet. So, I cast across the stream underneath the pine tree branch overhanging the eddy and felt very proud till he stole my smug moment. “You might feel bites if you can keep the fly there without it sweeping badly in the different cur-

rents. You won't be able to get the fish out under the tree and back across that white water without losing it.” He was right again. My accuracy was short of awesome, and I was feeling little bites, but there are places where eventhough you can get the fly into the pocket, you can't get the fish out. The overhang and the white water currents provided a great safe home for those little fish. There are waters that are best walked by and use your time more productively.

Mom and Dad and I fished together for years that normally would provide problems for most fishing parties; but we had a great system worked out. Nobody wanted a tag along so I would walk downstream a third of the way with Dad and fish back upstream to where mom was fishing ¼ mile upstream from the jeep. Dad considered you a novice if you didn't fish upstream. He always said the fish could see you walk up to the stream so if you fish downstream, the fish watch you walk right down the stream from pool to pool. This is even more important in the slower moving water sections, clearest of water, and more steep sections where the path was a little elevated. Generally speaking, if you can look down and see them, they can also look up and see you if you aren't peeking through cover. Cover doesn't mean sunglasses. This lower section was so steep that Dad said something I will never forget. He said, “don't slide down to the water in a place where you can't climb back out. Pay attention to what you are doing and don't walk over to the edge of those big boulders because you can pitch forward so easily with an unintentional weight shift. Crawl over there to get a look and..... get a darker hat.”

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FISHIN' WITH DAD

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I saw him do something I would have never believed possible. He said, "watch. I am going to hop this little dry fly across this small pool and if there is a fish in there, it will come right out of the water to take it." I thought, he is nuts. He was standing right over the pool. This is impossible. The fish will see you standing there. I watched the leader hang straight down from the fly rod and the little puppet fly was danced across the pool and faster than you could blink, a tiny trout flew up and grabbed the fly. I didn't recognize the value of a shadow over the water, which mimicked dark water conditions. He was proud standing there in his dark blue clothes wearing his irrigation boots. I was still clearly the student in my late 20's and very entertained.

Well into my 30's, I heard this voice behind me on Jim Creek say, "Do you know why you caught that fish?" "Yes. You taught me to crouch behind bigger rocks and cast up into the pools

behind them. Right?" "Right. There might be another one there. Try it again."

"You're going to lose that fly. Pick it up!" How does he do that? Sneak up on me! The sun was hot and I was more into the Zen experience of watching the fly twisting and tumbling through the various currents headed for the two big rocks forming the tail of the pool. I wanted lunch and he wanted me to catch a fish. I had 3 possibilities: 2 ways to lose the fly and one way to catch the fish. Either a fish would come up as the fly suspended in the lower current for a few seconds or the fly would then swirl into the very fast water to be wedged between these two rocks never to see the inside of my flybox again. I was either going to lose the fly as the faster current sent it between the rocks seated close together at the spillway or if the fly went down the spillway, it would certainly get lodged in the rocks under the spillway. You had to pick it up at the right second and then lower it into the head of the pool just beneath

the rocks. These were fly survival methods learned the hard way. You couldn't wade out there and retrieve that fly nor could you let the fly line go 20 feet downstream because you couldn't get the fish back upstream in faster water.

Books abound, equipment has improved, we now have tons of flies to choose from (beadheads are magical), we even study entomology and those fluorocarbon leaders have increased my catch. Even with all these advantages, we still have to know where to stand and where to present the fly. Thanks Dad for the memories, the fish dinners, and the skills.

Kim Jones told some folks years back that when she fished Kitchen creek with me, her fish count went up. She told them I showed her some holding places that she was going to walk past. She fished them and increased her catch. It is a case of; you weren't just fishing with me that day, Kim. You were fishing with me and my Dad.



It Is Still Hot at Miramar

Barry P., Paul B. and I started around 7 AM and fished until 11:30 AM when Barry had to leave the water for a doctors appointment. Barry had 1 by lunch. Paul and I each had 5 by then... Paul got all his on Paul's specials while I was lured to the dark side after catching 2 on Paul Specials. Paul put on a show catching a 24+ incher that appeared to be around 9 pounds. Everyone within shouting distance had to stop and watch the "Master" do his thing. After Barry left, Paul and I returned to the water and ended up with 14 apiece by the time Paul had to leave... Paul had 12 on Specials and I had 12 on Wigglers... One that got away was a NICE fish

that I got near the boat but not in the net. It looked to be better than 20 inches... After Paul left I went back out and hooked 5 more but only put 3 in the net... My best fish hooked up between the boat dock and Moes hole, in the middle of the lake, and was so large it couldn't get out of the water when he tried to jump. He made 2 attempts that ended in HUGE splashes, put me in my backing twice and shook his head like a big old buffalo. Again I got him close to the boat before he gave me the "fin" and took off. I'll see him in my dreams for awhile.

Hope the Tuesday fishermen have a great time !!!!!!!

Lucky



Louie Zimm with a nice 17 lb. channel catfish caught at Lake Miramar.



Paul's Special Day

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time to press the button and let us hear the little clicker going off. He does not use the familiar "Fish On" that Bob Pharaoh announces. I just usually hear the radio click on and then some laughing as he puts the radio close to the reel. It only happens, when he has a fish taking drag on a long run, and usually when I am having problems catching or keeping fish.

As the day progressed Paul decided he would like to catch 30 fish; and set about to do just that. He wanted to catch as many as Bernie Fink and Steve Piper did last week. He was getting pretty tired kicking around as he said "with his 72 year old legs." At this time I only had 6 fish and I was feeling a little outclassed. I started to fish spots a little closer to Paul and put on a big size 6, Paul's Special with a bright silver bead, peacock cactus chenille body and that colorful fox, cinnamon marabou, olive marabou, red marabou tail. It also has a few strands of pearl Krstalfash to make it a great attractor when the sun is out.

His lunch story is typical of his luck this day. Paul was not planning on fishing later than 2:00, so he did not bring a lunch. He kept fishing while some of us went ashore. During our lunch we could hear him catching

another fish on the radio and he would report the fish were jumping near his boat in the middle of the lake. I had an extra peanut butter and jelly sandwich and Bob kicked in a diet Pepsi and a granola bar for a surprise package for Paul. I fished hard as I kicked out delivering lunch to Paul on the water but I did not get a bite. Paul is sitting in his boat with the line and fly, just drifting along. He is trying to eat a sandwich and gets bit again. He almost drops the sandwich trying to get the rod out of the holder to set the hook. He is catching fish on a dead fly line while we are kicking and actively stripping line. He caught three fish while just drifting a fly in the afternoon. When I had 7 fish, I remember thinking that I didn't mind when Bob or Bernie caught twice as many fish as I did, but now Paul has caught five times as many fish. Now that is going too far. When he got his 35 he was a happy camper and was ready to go home. We were on the south side of the point and heading in to shore when I hooked up a really good thumper. Just when I thought the fish gods had smiled down on me only, Paul gets hooked up on its twin. Big fish swim together. We had the "Double hook up of all time." These fish were too big to jump and in the shallow water off the point. All they could do was run.

The reels were singing and the line peeling off in all directions. Paul and I were going round and round, laughing and joking about if I was going to break this one off too. I radioed Bob, still eating lunch on shore, to walk to the end of the point to take a picture of these fish when we landed them. I had confidence because I was using some new fluorocarbon leader that Lee Anderson had given me. We landed both fish at the shore line. Paul's fish really did not like the muddy water that I stirred up and put up an extra good fight at the end. We did not have a scale or measure, but estimated the fish at about 8 pounds and 24 inches. They were twins, except mine was full of eggs. We took pictures and released the fish to fight another day.

Paul was tuckered out, but managed to catch one more fish on the way in to make a total of 37 fish for the day. If he did not catch the 8 pounder he would have gone for the 40. We told him that great fish was worth at least 3 regular trout.

It was a great day for Paul and a special day for those of us that witnessed it. Thanks to Paul for sharing it with us.



From: Robert Pharaoh

To: undisclosed-recipients:
Date: Fri, 13 Apr 2007
Subject: Miramar Fishing
Friday 4-13-07

Today was Barry's day. 17 trout and 1 catfish. Paul, Barry and I (Lucky couldn't make it after tying up some new flies) hit the lake early. Paul and I hit fish right away and had a couple before Barry got in the

water. Paul was nailing them on Paul's Specials and I caught them on the Burnt Orange Special. Barry started with Paul's Specials and ended up fishing Wigglers. When Lunch time arrived I had 10 (5 flies, 5 Wigglers), Paul had 13 and Barry had 14... After lunch I couldn't hook a fish. I had plenty of strikes but no hookups. Paul landed 1 and had 2 break his line. Barry landed 4 more with a number

of strikes.

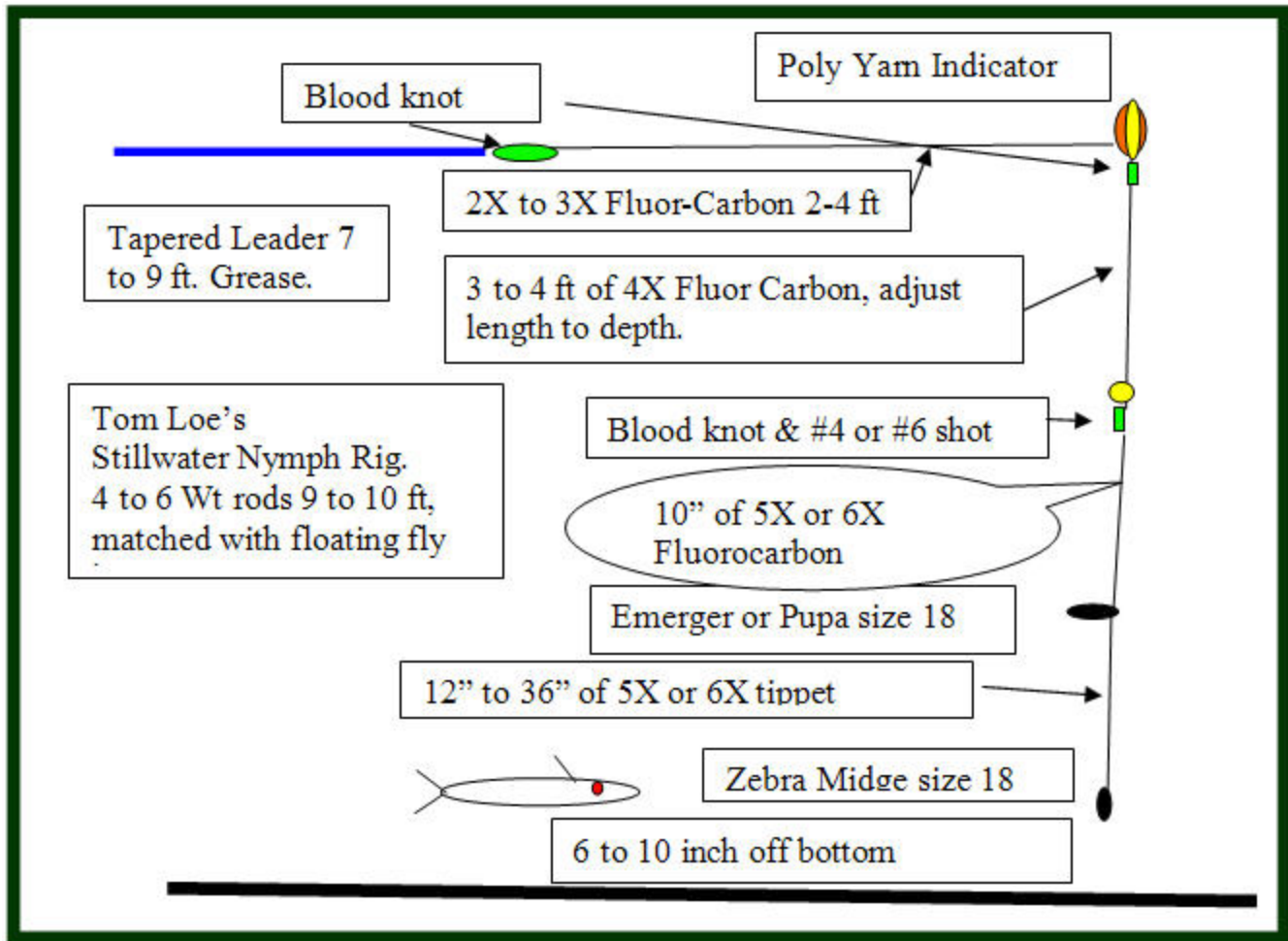


Barry Pechersky



Tom Loe's Stillwater Two Fly Nymph Rig

"Heave and Leave Technique" for Crowley Lake. Notes from Sierra Drifter lecture at San Diego Fly Fishers, February 3, 2003.
Notes by Lucky Ketcham, July 30, 2006



Try to find some 7 to 10 feet of water over an organic, mucky bottom where midges will be emerging. Magee Bay, Hilton Bay, Green Banks, Seven Coves are good areas. Look for clear channels near weed beds. The old stream bed of Magee Creek is a favorite of Tom's. It is slightly deeper and cooler than surrounding flats. Measure the depth with your fly rod tip or with a line attached to a weight.

Rods: 4 to 6 Wt, 8 ½ to 10 feet long
Line: Floating lines to match rod - four

to six weight.

Leader: 7 ½ to 9 feet tapered leader, or straight 2X Fluor-carbon two to four feet long. The leader is attached with a nail knot, not loop to loop. Loops make the tip of the fly line too heavy, causing it to sink.

Strike Indicator: Use a treated adjustable Poly Yarn Indicator or the smallest Corkie that you can see. Point rod to the water and keep slack to a minimum.

Graduated Tippets: At the end of the tapered leader tie a two to four foot

section of 2x or 3X Fluor-carbon tippet with a blood knot. Add a two foot section of 4X Fluor-carbon with a blood knot. Then three or four feet of 5X or 6X Fluor-carbon tippet. Tie the final section with a blood knot.

Just above the 5X tippet add a #4 or #6 non-toxic split shot to help sink the rig. The highest fly or second fly will be an emerger or midge pupa. Tie it by the eye of the hook 12 to 36 inches above the end and about 10 inches below the split shot. Tom does not like

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Stillwater Nymph Rig

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to tie the end tippet from the bend of the hook. He thinks it reduces the strikes or at least the hookups.

The bottom fly is a Tungsten Bead Head Zebra Midge, Chironimid midge pattern size 18 to 22. Tom Loe likes to use Tungsten bead heads because they are non-toxic and heavier than glass or brass. The tungsten beads are \$0.25 each and make his flies cost about \$2.50 each. (Small glass beads with silver lining seem to work quite well for me and they are less expensive.) Use stomach pump to check for colors fish are feeding. Start with black and gold rib, black and silver rib, or black



**Copper Beadhead
Zebra Midge size 18**

and red rib.

Tom says the key is to fish the bottom nymph in the bottom 10% of the water column. If the water is 10 deep, fish it less than 10 inches from the bottom.

Anchor your boat, pontoon or float tube with a round weight, not a claw type anchor. If you drift with the wind you may have to constantly check and adjust the depth of the fly and indicator. He sells a small depth finder – alligator clip attached to a 3/8 to 1/2 ounce egg sinker. Attach the alligator clip to the bottom fly. Drop the fly to the bottom and pull up six inches. Attach the yarn float indicator at the water surface. Take off the weight and fish that depth to find fish. If you

are not getting bites move and constantly clean any algal filaments from your flies.

Trout cruise near the bottom, just picking off hundreds of midge pupae as they suspend just off the bottom before rising to the surface. A rocking or jiggling action by the boat or wind waves helps trigger strikes. Set the hook on any movement of the indicator.



**Tiger Midge Pupa with blue
and pearl Krystal Flash**

Glass Bead with Silver Lining on a scud hook makes a good emerger pattern. The glass bead looks like an air bubble or the light gills on a pupa.



The Zebra Midge is a great little sub-surface fly. It resembles a mosquito larva, and can be fished similar to a Chironomid. Make sure to add a few of these to your Chironomid box

before heading out on the water for the day.

(Note to Feather Benders — I found this recipe on the internet, but it is a



Zebra Midge

little sloppy, and has a fatter abdomen than I like. I would skip the stretch floss for the thin bodied larva and just use the flattened nylon thread on a fine dry fly hook. The pupae have a shorter thicker body, so the spandex floss is okay for the above curved hook pupa. – Lucky Ketcham)

Ingredients for the Zebra Midge:

- Scud Hook Size 16, 18, 20, 22 or dry fly hook TMC 100 or 101 (Use straight eye hooks on very small patterns)
- Small to very small gold, copper, silver, glass, or Tungsten beads 2mm or 1.5mm
- Fine to very fine silver or gold wire
- Stretch Floss or just flat waxed nylon thread
- 8/0 Black fly tying thread – flat waxed nylon, like Danville's.

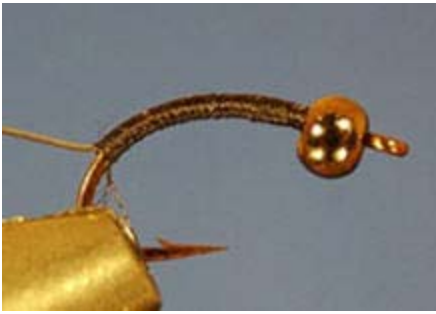
Start by crimping the barb of the hook in the vise jaws, or with a pair of flat pliers. Select a bead of appropriate size to place on the hook. Tie on your thread just behind the bead.

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Zebra Midge

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Take a piece of silver wire, and tie it onto the hook shank, just behind the bead. Bind the wire to the bottom of the bend of the hook. (Wire and lead always are tied to the bottom of the hook shank for weight distribution and symmetry. If the wire is started into the bead head it helps hold the bead and keeps the body of the fly even and smooth. Flatten the thread on the smaller patterns before wrapping back to the bend. LK) This guy ends the wire on top of the hook. Bad... The ribbing will look better from the top view if it has a full wrap or wire at the rear end.



Tie in a piece of black or dark colored stretch floss near the tail, and wind the thread to the bead. Add a half hitch to secure the fly. (Optional – Just use the tying thread. Flatten the thread by holding out the thread with your bodkin needle and letting it unwind until it is flat. This guy is not teaching smooth under-

bodies. LK) This guy teaches you to add the floss at the bend of the hook. Look at the bump it creates in the body. It is better to attach it behind the bead and stretch it out while wrapping to the bend. You do not want a lumpy body on your fly patterns.



(Make one wrap of floss or thread behind the wire rib and then) wrap the floss forward to the bead. Use tight wraps, while pulling the stretch floss away from the hook. Tie off the floss once you have the taper you want, and trim off any excess floss.

Wrap the wire forward using even wraps. (The segments should be about as wide as the hook and body diameter. They should be a little closer together at the rear or bend and then increase in separation slightly as you go forward.) Tie the wire off just behind the bead, trim the excess wire and add a whip finish to the fly. Add a small amount of head cement for durability. Lucky notes – The recipe and instructions are pretty good for this fly, but look at the difference with the well tied fly at the right. The abdomen is thin and tapered. There are no lumps or bumps. The ribbing



is evenly space with progressively enlarging segments. The whip finish is neat and clean forming a nicely tapered thorax. The rougher pattern will probably work okay, but not good enough for Tom Smith, Gary Hilbers and Larry Sorenson's class. You can attach some muskrat fur dubbing or peacock herl behind the bead for variations of the pupa. You can add a strand of pearl Krystal flash at the tail or two small sections of flash behind the bead for wing pads.

If you tie the same pattern and rib the fly with pearl or green or rainbow Krystal Flash you have the Tiger Midge.

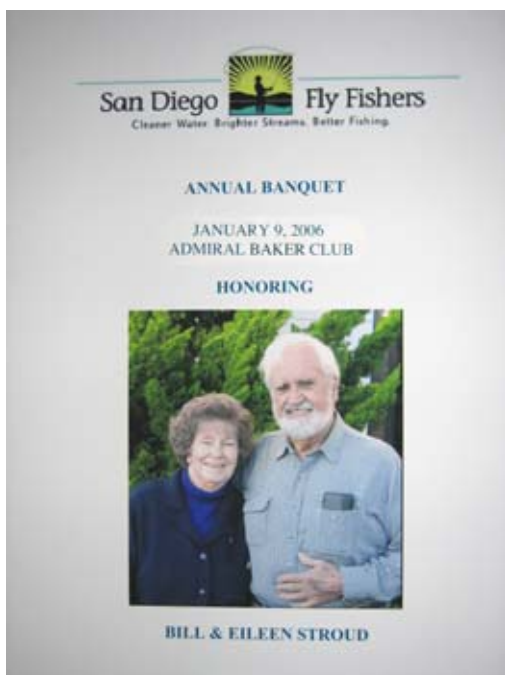
You will lose these two or three at a time on some pretty big fish so 50 to 200 are not too many to take on a 5 day trip. Try using them as drop-per behind almost any large dry fly or streamer on almost any water. When I am stripping or trolling the little perch fly I some times add the Zebra 18 inches behind the streamer. The perch will attract the fish but it will take the midge.

Every time you tie one you will save \$2.50. Ka Ching!



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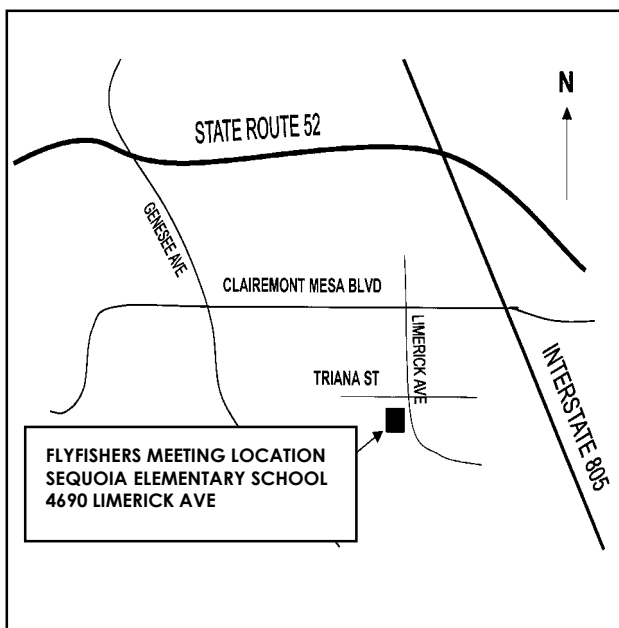
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